

**SITUATION REPORT No. 1**  
**INCIDENT 98-015 (BLIZZARD)**  
**Date: February 27, 1998 TIME: 1:30 p.m.**

**TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer**  
**State Capitol**  
**Bismarck, ND 58505**

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** A blizzard struck western and north central North Dakota on February 25, 1998 and is continuing. The most severely impacted counties are: Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Divide, Dunn, Golden Valley, McKenzie, Mountrail, Renville, Rolette, Slope, Stark, Ward and Williams.
2. **DEATH AND INJURIES:** A two-car accident in Ward County injured one person. An individual fell and broke his hip in Bowman County. A Renville County family received exposure to elevated levels of carbon monoxide.
3. **DAMAGES:** Snow depths of 9" to 18" have been reported. Travel is either not recommended or impossible in most of the storm area. There are widespread road closures. I-94 is closed from the Montana line to Dickinson and no travel is advised from Dickinson to Hebron. Travelers coming in from Montana created a need to shelter 30 stranded motorists. All local motels in Beach (Golden Valley County) are filled. An estimated 40 trucks are parked on the highway near Beach waiting out the storm. The Montana Department of Transportation closed I-94 from Glendive to the North Dakota border this morning. This will help the situation near Beach.

U.S. Highway 2 west of Minot and U.S. Highway 52 north of Minot were closed until 12:30 p.m. today. Travel is becoming difficult in the northeast because of ice conditions. Power outages were reported throughout the area with Dunn, McKenzie, Renville, Rolette, Ward and Williams Counties most seriously affected. Power has been restored in most areas except for 400-500 customers in Renville County, and 100 customers in Williams County. Deep snow and strong winds are hampering restoration efforts. More outages could occur as conditions persist, but power companies working in cooperation with snow removal resources are responding to outages. Schools in the storm area are closed or without rural bus service. Courthouses are closed in at least 12 counties in west and north central North Dakota.

4. **RESOURCES COMMITTED:** State and County Emergency Management, N.D. Department of Transportation, N.D. Highway Patrol, State Radio Communications, County Sheriffs Departments, City Police Departments,

Emergency Medical Services, volunteers, local Public Works Departments, and electric utility repair crews are responding.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTIONS:** A church and individual families in Beach are sheltering 30 stranded motorists.
6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:** On February 27, 1998, Golden Valley County Commissioners and the Mayor of the City of Beach issued Emergency Declarations. Sheriff's and City Police Departments have been rescuing stranded motorists. Golden Valley Sheriff's Department and County Road Department conducted a successful search for four missing persons. A family was evacuated to the hospital in Mohall after exposure to elevated levels of carbon monoxide. County Highway Departments are opening roads to enable electric utility repair crews to work on restoring power.
7. **ASSISTANCE NEEDED:** No assistance has been requested from local jurisdictions at this time.
8. **OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE:** None.
9. **OTHER INFORMATION:** A blizzard warning continues for western and north central North Dakota this afternoon. A winter storm watch has been issued for the eastern third of North Dakota tonight and Saturday with one to three inches of snow possible tonight and possibly heavy snow for Saturday. It will be windy statewide on Saturday.

---

Douglas C. Friez, State Director